

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

(14SC1) El Cuartelejo Archeological District National Historic Landmark

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER about 13 miles north of Scott City, banks of Lake Scott (old Lake McBride) in Lake Scott State Park.

CITY, TOWN

Scott City

☒ VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Kansas

CODE

20

COUNTY

Scott

CODE

171

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☒ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☒ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME (Continued) - Major Owners:

State of Kansas (c/o Rick Stevens, Manager)

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Scott State Park

CITY, TOWN

Scott City

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE

Kansas

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry of Deeds, Scott County Courthouse

State Parks &amp; Resources

Authority, Box 977

Topeka, Kansas 66601

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Scott City

STATE

Kansas

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**TITLE Kansas Anthropological Association (1975-1976)  
Kansas State Historical Society (1970-1971)

DATE

1970, 1971, 1975, 1976

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Office of State Archeologist, Kansas State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

STATE

Kansas 66612

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☒ DETERIORATED  
☒ RUINS  
☒ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

El Cuartelejo Archeological District consists of the remains of over 20 archeological sites located within and adjacent to Scott County State Park about 13 miles north of Scott City, Kansas. Most of the sites are representative of the Dismal River Aspect of the Plains dating to proto-historic/early historic times, but a few earlier sites and components have been included within landmark boundaries as well. Located in the semi-arid High Plains region of western Kansas, the sites are generally situated on the shores of or terraces overlooking Ladder Creek or Lake McBride, created by the damming of Ladder Creek. Several sites have also been located on terraces overlooking the ravines and often rugged canyons which contain small or intermittent streams feeding into the lake. The construction of the lake probably covered numerous archeological sites with water.

The canyon in which Ladder Creek flows is reminiscent of the Southwest with its craggy bluffs and narrow ridges, its flat-topped buttes and isolated mounds, and its yucca and cactus-covered slopes. The banks of the creek are covered with tall grasses interrupted by occasional clusters of cottonwood and willow. Stands of timber along with small bushes such as chokecherry and wild currant grow in the ravines which open off the main valley. Buffalo and other short grasses provide the vegetal cover in the valley floor and on the bluff tops.

The focal point and principal site of the district is a seven room pueblo called El Cuartelejo located on a slight knoll on a terrace west of the lake. A spring is located southwest of the pueblo, and an old irrigation ditch leads from it onto the flats in the immediate vicinity of the structure. The construction technique and possible antiquity of this ditch and of another which is located within landmark boundaries about a half mile to the south are not known, but it is suspected that they may originally date to the time of occupation of the pueblo, although they have been used in more modern times by recent inhabitants of the valley.

This site (14SC1) was excavated in 1898 by S.W. Williston and H.T. Martin of the University of Kansas. Their excavations revealed the remains of stone walls 18 to 24 inches thick and about 2 ½ feet high. Constructed of boulders probably obtained from the nearby bluffs, these walls enclosed an east-west rectangle measuring 53 by 35 feet with partitions for seven interior rooms (Refer to Map B). The walls and floors of these rooms had been plastered with mud. Interior features of the structure included rectangular fireplaces lined with stone slabs, post molds, and an adobe grinding slab. The archeological evidence indicated that fire was responsible for the destruction of the building. Numerous stone artifacts, bone tools, and pottery sherds, along with remains of corn and squash were among the items unearthed during this 19th century investigation. Although most of the artifacts from the site represented an early historic Plains Indian culture, there were also several potsherds which appeared to have originated in the Southwestern pueblos. The implications of the recovery of these sherds, dated to about 1700 A.D., will be further discussed in the State of Significance (Section 8 of this nomination).

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Approximately 1650-1750 A.D. -occupation of greatest importance  
 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The El Cuartelejo Archeological District, located almost entirely within Lake Scott State Park, contains over 26 sites, most of which relate to the Dismal River Culture of the High Plains. Dismal River sites have been associated with the Plains Apache during proto and early historic time (ca. 1650-1750 A.D.) and thus have the potential to yield information on the specific aspects of Plains Apache/Dismal River lifestyle, on the relationship between the Dismal River/Apache and the neighboring Plains and Southwestern groups, and on early Indian/European contacts in this area. In addition, because the district consists of a concentration of contemporaneous sites rather than isolated examples, it also provides an excellent opportunity to investigate such aspects as settlement pattern, and various activities and site functions of the Dismal River Aspect/Plains Apache.

Several sites of earlier periods also fall within the landmark boundaries. Although these earlier sites may not relate specifically to the Dismal River/Plains Apache culture, they do have potential to provide valuable information about the earlier occupation and cultural development in the area and on the relationship between the proto-historic/early historic cultures there to those which preceded.

The principal site within the district consists of a seven room pueblo structure--the northeasternmost example of the pueblo architectural style in the country. This structure is thought to have been built by the Taos or Picuris Indians who are known from historic sources to have taken refuge with the Apache during times of trouble with the Spanish. If this identification is correct, then the landmark may be the village visited by General Ulibarri who was sent by the Spanish governor to bring the refugee Picuris back to the Southwest. Surprisingly, despite the presence of this puebloan structure and of several artifacts suggesting Southwestern contacts, the Dismal River culture is characterized largely by a Plains-type cultural assemblage. Perhaps an examination of the relationship between the pueblo and the surrounding sites will help to clarify this issue.

### Discussion

The Dismal River Aspect, generally attributed to the Plains Apache and dated to about 1700 A.D., represents an archeological complex which occurs on the High Plains in western Nebraska, western Kansas, eastern Colorado, southeastern Wyoming, and possibly southwestern South Dakota. The landmark district thus contains examples of Dismal River culture in the more southern part of its range. As illustrated by the sites within the district, the Dismal River

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2410-21 (UTM azimuth boundary)

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 4	3, 3, 3, 0, 8, 0	4, 2, 8, 4, 9, 2, 5	B	1, 4	3, 3, 3, 7, 7, 5	4, 2, 8, 3, 7, 7, 5
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1, 4	3, 3, 4, 0, 2, 0	4, 2, 8, 2, 5, 9, 5	D	1, 4	3, 3, 4, 1, 6, 0	4, 2, 8, 0, 4, 0, 0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

El Cuartelejo National Historic Landmark is an archeological district composed of 26 discrete sites and many broader localities of artifactual remains that are relatively continuous distributions in surface exposure. These collective remains are found within and adjacent to Ladder Creek Canyon and associated tributaries in northern Scott County, Kansas (viz., Lake Scott State Park and vicinity). The district name is borrowed from El Cuartelejo Pueblo Ruin (i.e., (18) 14SC1) and defined by STATE AND COUNTY BOUNDARIES.

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE 1. Francine Weiss, Archeologist, Landmark Review Project (1975)  
2. Emerson L. Pearson, Landmark Archeologist (1983)

ORGANIZATION 1. Historic Sites Survey, NPS  
2. Rocky Mountain Regional Office, NPS-PR

DATE November 1975  
22 August 1983

STREET & NUMBER 1100 L. Street N.W.  
2. 655 Parfet St., P.O. Box 25287

TELEPHONE 1. 202-523-5464  
2. 303-234-2560

CITY OR TOWN 1. Washington  
2. Denver

STATE 1. D.C.  
2. Colorado

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ☒

STATE ☐

LOCAL ☐

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

2/22/85

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

El Cuartelejo Archeological District

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

4

PAGE 2

Daughters of the American Revolution  
c/o Miss Velma Pitman  
P. O. Box 64  
Scott City, Kansas

Also: Some other private owners own small portions.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

El Cuartelejo Archeological District

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Williston and Martin also described the surface remains of other structures evident during the late-19th century. They mention the presence of ruins of several smaller buildings of adobe about 100 yards south of the pueblo, and they cite evidence for four circular structures in an east-west row about 25 yards to the north of the pueblo. None of these structures are apparent at the surface today.

In 1939-1940, the site was re-examined by Waldo Wedel of the Smithsonian Institution. In an area about 70 yards south of the pueblo, Wedel uncovered an elliptical basin, 8 by 16 feet, which contained two possible post holes and yielded bones, pottery sherds, charcoal, points, scrapers, and an iron awl. This feature may have represented a temporary habitation, but other explanations, such as a borrow pit or refuse pit, also exist. Other features in the vicinity of this basin included a circular, bell-shaped cache pit which was later used for refuse, and another pit filled with refuse which might have originally been a drainage channel. Directly to the north of the pueblo, Wedel excavated in what was probably the principal midden area. At 18 to 20 inches below the surface, Wedel noted the presence of an elliptical refuse-filled basin, pits, burned areas, hearth complexes, and other concentrations of refuse overlain by trash. Iron and glass beads occurred throughout the deposit. Wedel assumed that this area was a general outdoor cooking area which had originally been placed in a slight depression (about 20 inches below the surrounding ground surface) and which gradually became filled with refuse. Twenty yards south of the pueblo was another midden area excavated by Wedel which contained a hearth and a roasting pit. A second roasting pit, identified by heavily burned walls, blackened floor, high ash and charcoal content, and calcined stones, was uncovered northwest of the pueblo.

Artifacts from Wedel's 1940's excavations include: over 3000 potsherds of a utilitarian ware, mainly dark in color with quartz or mica inclusions and no decoration (Scott Plain or Scott Micaceous types); only four shell-tempered sherds, probably from the lower Walnut River area east of Arkansas City; fragments of pipes, some similar in style and decoration to Rio Grande types from the Southwest dating to the late 17th and early 18th centuries; worked antler; scapula digging tools; awls made from mammal ribs and leg bones; fleshing tools from bison metatarsals; needle fragments; possible bone point and flaking tools; bone beads; a bone whistle; several miscellaneous fragments of worked bone; projectile points, primarily triangular in shape; drills; knife fragments; numerous scrapers; manos; a mealing slab; mortars; shaft straighteners and

(Continued)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

El Cuartelejo Archeological District

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 3

smoothers; a hammerstone; hematite; a few fragments of worked shell; and two disk beads, probably from the Southwest. Although finds of Southwestern potsherds (Tewa polychrome--late 17th and early 18th centuries) had been reported by Williston and Martin from the earlier excavation in the ruin area and from collections by local amateurs, the Smithsonian dig of the late 1930's/early 1940's in the middens surrounding the structure did not yield any of these exotic wares from the Rio Grande area.

During the years following the 1939 Smithsonian excavations, local collectors attempted to reexcavate the pueblo following the plan on the Williston and Martin map. Unfortunately, their work was undocumented and rather confusing.

In 1969-1970, a reexamination of the pueblo was begun by the Kansas State Historical Society. The pueblo area was completely reexcavated in an attempt to recover any remaining artifacts and to uncover any remaining features such as post holes, pits, etc. Little of the actual pueblo was found to remain during this excavation. The local collectors had apparently dug through the floor of the structure destroying many of the features which might otherwise have been detected. Several hearths were located, however, and the exact position of the pueblo was reestablished. Roasting pits under the pueblo and therefore of an earlier date than the structure were identified during this dig. Excavations outside of the pueblo walls yielded the remains of three borrow pits which had probably been dug for the recovery of clay to plaster the pueblo walls and were later filled with refuse. A series of post molds found to the south of the pueblo indicated that there must have been some structure built along that side of the building. These 1970 excavations yielded numerous Dismal River type artifacts plus several Tewa polychrome sherds.

After the 1969-1970 excavations, the pueblo was reconstructed according to the descriptions of Williston and Martin. The walls were built up to a height of about 1 or 2 feet; and the hearths, mealing slab, pits, etc. were placed in their appropriate positions.

In 1975, the Kansas State Historical Society with the Kansas Archeological Association excavated 100 yards south and southwest of the pueblo in an area which roughly corresponded to the place where Williston and Martin noted the presence of the ruins of several smaller adobe buildings. These 1975 excavations did not reveal any obvious structures although they did yield adobe and rock rubble. Artifacts recovered include primarily Dismal River-Plains Apache types along with several Southwestern sherds and an obsidian point.

The other sites within the district have all been located on the accompanying USGS map. Most relate to the Dismal River culture and were discovered during surface surveys by both amateurs and professionals or during construction activities. Any exceptions to these general rules plus any noteworthy finds will be discussed below. Excavations were conducted on some of these other sites by local collectors, by Hill of the Nebraska Historical Society, by Wedel in conjunction with the

(Continued)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

El Cuartelejo Archeological District

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 4

1939-1940 Smithsonian research, by James Gunnerson of Northern Illinois University during the 1960's and by the Kansas State Historical Society and the Kansas Anthropological Association in 1975; these excavations will also be described below.

Site 14SC2, also called the Young Burial Site, is located on a terrace north of Lake Scott on the west side of Ladder Creek just outside of the Lake Scott State Park boundary. A few artifacts were noted on the surface of this site, but it wasn't until road construction in the late 1930's near the north gate of the park graded out one or more burials that the real character of the site became known. Then, several years later in conjunction with Wedel's 1939-1940 excavations sponsored by the Smithsonian, at least five burials were excavated from an area measuring over 800 square feet. Grave goods accompanying the burials included: tortoise shell, worked and unworked mussel shells, bone beads, a bone awl, flint scrapers, spalls, a large stemmed projectile point, and a knife. Other artifacts found not associated with the burials included points, scrapers, and a bone bead. There were no potsherds recovered from the excavations although at least one was collected from the surface seventy or eighty feet south of the graves. This site probably dates from a time period earlier than the occupation of the pueblo. In 1959, Wedel contended that most of the burial area had already been excavated and that little was left for future research. However, in 1975, a burial was found just south of 14SC2 at a site numbered 14SC405. This burial, exposed in the loose sand of an eroding cut above the access road to the park about 40 feet north of the park boundary and ten feet west of the road, was excavated by the Kansas State Historical Society in June 1975 and found to contain two chipped stone bifaces, a turtle shell, a clam shell, and a bone bead in association with the human remains.

Sites 14SC408, 302, 108, and 407 are located in Timber Canyon just southwest of 14SC2. Of these, number 14SC407 is thought to be an Archaic site judging from the surface collections. Site 14SC302, badly disturbed because of its location in a campground, was excavated under the direction of the Kansas State Historical Society in the summer of 1975 in an attempt to salvage materials from further destruction. Although some Dismal River material was found at this site, the main component appeared to be Upper Republican (ca. 1350 A.D.) and somewhat earlier than Dismal River-Plains Apache. The presence of numerous animal bones and the lack of structures indicated that 14SC302 was most probably a campsite. The disturbed nature of the site prevented the excavators from determining any stratigraphic separation between the Dismal River and Upper Republican materials.

Site 14SC406 is directly south of 14SC2 on Lake Scott at the northwest intersection of Ladder Creek and Timber Canyon. Across the Lake from 406 is 14SC401 which yielded a fragment of turquoise during a surface examination. On the west side of the lake, Site 14SC107 yielded a scattering of surface occupational debris while Site 14SC307 consisted mainly of exposed bones. Site 14SC303 is located on the northeast bank of Lake Scott, and Site 14SC404 is just outside the eastern boundary of Lake Scott State Park.

(Continued)



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

El Cuartelejo Archeological District  
Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 5

Further excavations were conducted in the vicinity of the bath house near site 14SC107 by A. T. Hill of the Nebraska Historical Society in 1944-45. During those years, the lake level was lower and areas normally under water were exposed. Hill took advantage of this unusual exposure to investigate the area of a large campsite with roasting pits and caches visible at the surface. Hill proceeded to excavate one of these roasting pits. Most of the artifacts echoed those found during Wedel's excavations, but he also recovered a Tewa polychrome sherd in this area.

Site 14SC111 and adjacent site 14SC304 lie on the east side of Lake Scott to the north of the pueblo while site 14SC106 is located across the lake. In 1965, portions of both 14SC304 and 106 were excavated by Gunnerson who was attempting to collect information on Apache and Dismal River houses. In that year Gunnerson had also done some tests in the immediate vicinity of the pueblo but had not found any evidence of structures there. In any event, a house was excavated at each of the two sites (14SC304 and 14SC106). One of the houses had a five base post pattern, a classic example of a Dismal River house, and the other had four base posts and showed signs of burning.

Site 14SC403 is located south of the pueblo on the east side of the lake. A few hundred yards further south is a group of three sites--14SC102, 103, and 301. In this area, A. T. Hill of the Nebraska Historical Society had excavated a roasting pit prior to 1939, and Wedel in 1939 to 1940 completed the excavation of another roasting pit, later used for refuse, which he found partially opened, probably as a result of digging by local collectors. Wedel also noted the presence of several shallow basins containing burned stones and earth along with charcoal. These features contained artifacts similar to those recovered from the pueblo area. Later, Gunnerson (1969) reported that local collectors found a human burial in a roasting pit in this area. The burial has been identified as possibly of puebloan ancestry.

Near the west border of the park is site 14SC402 on a high terrace overlooking Ladder Creek. At the intersection of Ladder Creek and Epler Canyon is 14SC305. Site 14SC104 is outside of park boundaries. This site was excavated by Gunnerson in the 1960s. He determined that the site contained two components--one of which was representative of the Dismal River Aspect. Site 14SC105, located outside of the southern park boundaries, consists of several hearths of unknown cultural affiliation which were exposed in a road cut.

The landmark district as a whole is currently in good condition. As is clear from the preceding paragraphs, vandalism had often occurred within the district, but with the current drive toward education of local collectors by the Kansas Historical Society, this activity appears to have become less of a threat. A large percentage of the identified sites remain intact for future investigation. Most of the sites date to Dismal River or early Apache times, and the landmark designation has been based upon the fact that the district has yielded (and can continue to yield) important information about these periods. However, several

(Continued)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

El Cuartelejo Archeological District

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 6

sites of earlier periods have also been included within landmark boundaries because they have the potential to provide important background information concerning the earlier occupation in the valley.

Roads, an old railroad right-of-way, the residence of the park superintendent including his office and a maintenance building, several other small structures, plus picnicking and camping facilities and associated structures are located within landmark boundaries but obviously do not contribute to the national significance of the property. A monument marking the history and ownership of the pueblo was erected near the structure in 1925 when Steele, the original landowner, donated the property to the Daughters of the American Revolution; this granite pillar falls into a similar category as does the McBride Monument within landmark boundaries on a bluff top overlooking the valley. Originally, a visitor could drive right up to the pueblo but this destruction has been stopped.

The environment of the district is probably very similar to the environment which must have existed at the time of its occupation by the Dismal River culture. Unfortunately, vacation homes and small residences, some of which are visible from the landmark but for the most part outside of its boundaries, have been springing up. Hopefully, this development will not become too overpowering so that valley will remain in a natural state and will retain its Southwestern character which is so integral to its interpretation. This development does not, however, damage the actual integrity of the sites nor does it affect their importance; for they remain intact for future research.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

El Cuartelejo District

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

cultural assemblage basically consists of unique five post hole pattern houses; roasting pits; irregularly shaped basins; utilitarian pottery; pipes, points, knives, and drills; numerous scrapers; milling stones; manos; mauls; numerous shaft-smoothers; some sharpening stones; an occasional polishing stone; occasional fragments of iron and brass; some glass beads; and a considerable range of tool types in bone and antler including bison scapula hoes, awls, punches, polishing tools, flaking tools, and beads. The artifact complex appears to stress hunting, butchering and skin-working equipment, and it is safe to assume that the Dismal River people were primarily semi-sedentary hunters who supplemented their diets with some agriculture. The relatively small number of hoes, manos, and metates probably indicates the secondary nature of the agricultural practices (unless these tools were manufactured from wood or some other perishable material) as do the absence of large storage pits for food and the limited finds of maize, squash, and beans remains.

A more detailed analysis of the artifacts from the site and comparisons of the Dismal River tools with those of adjacent cultures provides insight into contacts and trade in the area during proto and early historic times. The date of 1700 A.D. which has been assigned to the pueblo site is confirmed by the limited number and variety of European trade goods. If the site were later, a large number of iron and bronze objects, probably including gun parts, would have been found. In general, with the notable exceptions of the five post hole house pattern and the roasting pits which appear to be particular to the Plains Apache, the archaeological assemblage of Dismal River echoes the cultural complexes of other Central Plains cultures. The emphasis on hunting over agriculture may, however, be somewhat greater in the Dismal River culture than in the others; for the Dismal River zone is probably drier and less favorable for horticultural activities than the Plains areas to the east. If the irrigation ditches within the district are found to relate to the Dismal River culture, they would represent an attempt to better the conditions for raising crops in this dry area.

The pottery characteristic of Dismal River culture is generally a hard, dark grey to black, sand-tempered ware shaped by the paddle and anvil method into globular or slightly elongate jars. Within the Dismal River area, however, certain variations occur in the surface treatment; for in the north a larger percentage of the wares exhibit simple stamping and lip decoration, a technique common to the cultures of the northern Plains area (Pawnee, Arikara, and Mandan), while at the southern and eastern Dismal River sites, such as those within the landmark district, the percentage of plain sherds and sherds without lip decoration is considerably greater. These southern sites, however, tend to have a larger

(Continued)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

El Cuartelejo District

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3

percentage of mica-tempered sherds than do the northern Dismal River examples. This mica-tempered ware may have been imported from or stimulated by contact with the Southwest; for it is similar to Taos-Picuris ware.

Other Southwestern influence can also be seen within the district. The Tewa polychrome sherds fragments of turquoise, and pipe shapes and decorations, all indicate contact with the Rio Grande area.

An examination of early Spanish records for the late 17th and early 18th centuries can provide additional insight into the contacts between the Southwestern pueblos and the Plains Apache. As a result of conflicts with the Spaniards in the early 1660's, some of the Taos Indians are known to have fled into the Plains and to have taken refuge with some Plains Apache. Juan de Archuleta and a small band of Spanish soldiers supposedly returned these Indians to their pueblos. The reports from these soldiers allegedly indicate that the Taos had constructed dwellings for themselves in the Plains Apache country. The place of their dwellings became known as El Cuartelejo, translated now as "the old building or barracks," and the Apache in that area were also called Cuartelejo Apache.

In 1680, the Pueblo Indians successfully revolted against Spanish control. However, when Don Diego de Vargas returned in 1692-1696 to recapture the Southwest, a group of Picuris again fled to the Plains to live with the Cuartelejo Apache until 1706. At that time, General Juan de Ulibarri was sent by the Spanish Governor to return the Indians to New Mexico. Ulibarri mentions that the Picuris were living at four rancherias: Santo Domingo of El Cuartelejo, Sanasesli, Nanabe, and Adidasde. At Santo Domingo, Ulibarri and the Spanish soldiers were met by Don Lorenzo, the chief of the Picuris, who came out of huts or little houses. Ulibarri's journal also states that the dwellings of these fugitive Picuris were the restored quarters of the Taos Indians who had previously fled to the Plains. The Spanish soldiers also indicated that there were excellent quarters at Sanasesli.

Ulibarri's journal has played an important role in the determination of the location of El Cuartelejo. Although some archeologists have placed El Cuartelejo in eastern Colorado, the most recent researchers have traced the end of Ulibarri's journey to the vicinity of Lake Scott State Park. The archeological evidence appears to confirm this latter determination. The presence of the pueblo at the landmark along with the finds of Southwestern pipes and Tewa polychrome wares, etc. certainly indicate that contact occurred between the Plains Apache and the Southwestern pueblos. The 1700 A.D. date for the Tewa polychromes adds further

(Continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

El Cuartelejo District

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

credibility to this determination, for it coincides with the date of the Picuris flight to the Plains in 1692-1696. In light of this known historic connection, it is surprising that the pueblo artifacts represent such a small percentage of the total cultural assemblage at the landmark. Wedel (1959, p. 466) contends that the site represents a Plains Apache community of the late 17th/early 18th centuries. This Apache village area included a pueblo structure along with irrigation ditches and other features most probably built by or at least inspired by the Pueblo Indians. Wedel goes on to suggest that if the Pueblo Indians did actually reside at the site, the relative rarity of pueblo artifacts may have resulted either from a short stay or from the ready adoption by the Pueblo people of the Plains Apache tools. In any event, the Pueblo features present do indicate that the site, if not El Cuartelejo, may have been some community--possibly Sanasesli--in which the Rio Grande Pueblo Indians and the Plains Apache were living side by side at about 1700 A.D.

El Cuartelejo remained important to the Spanish because of the presence of the French in the Southern Plains, for the French were engaging in trade there with the Pawnee, enemies of the Apache. At the same time, Utes and Comanches, who had gotten possession of horses, were beginning to raid the Apache groups as well as the Pueblos and Spanish. In 1719, Governor Valverde led an expedition into the Plains against the Utes and Comanches. He allegedly passed close to El Cuartelejo at this time. Upon his return, General Don Pedro de Villasur was sent in 1720 into the area to determine the strength of the French. Villasur spent several days at El Cuartelejo and was subsequently killed by the Pawnee, allegedly under French direction, in the area which is now southwestern Nebraska. Following Villasur's death, there was some talk among the Spanish concerning the construction of a fort to ward off French advance at either El Cuartelejo or the Jicarillo Apache Rancheria, but the idea was abandoned. In the decades following the killing of Villasur, increased pressure from the Utes and Comanches caused the gradual abandonment of El Cuartelejo by the Cuartelejo Apache. By 1739, they were displaced and had moved toward the south.

Thus, the term El Cuartelejo seems to have been used from the 1660's till the 1730's or so. It is unknown when the Apache first came to this area in what is now Kansas, and the antecedents of the Dismal River culture prior to about 1650 have not yet been identified. In any event, by about 1650, the Dismal River culture is recognizable as the Plains Apache--a semi-sedentary group of hunters who supplemented their diets with limited horticultural activities. There has been no evidence that they had possession of the horse at this time.

(Continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

El Cuartelejo District

**CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 5

These Apaches were frequently in contact with the Pueblo peoples; the two groups often traded with each other and certain Pueblo groups are known to have sought refuge among the Apache during times of trouble with the Spanish. The Cuartelejo Apache remained in the area until they were driven south by the advancing Utes and Comanches on horseback around the middle of the 18th century. Future excavation at El Cuartelejo can thus provide information not only on the culture of the Plains Apache during early historic times, but also on the changes which occurred in the Apache lifestyle and on Spanish-Indian-tribal and even Spanish-French relationships during this time period.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

El Cuartelejo Archeological District

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

- Feagins, Jim D., ed., 1976, "J. Mett Shipper's Personal Field Notes, Scott County, Kansas, 1939," Kansas Anthropological Association Newsletter, vol. 21, nos. 8 & 9, pp. 1-11.
- Gunnerson, James H., 1959, "An Introduction to Plains Apache Archeology - The Dismal River Aspect," B.A.E. Bull 174, pp. 131-260.
- Gunnerson, James H., 1968, "Plains Apache Archaeology: A Review," Plains Anthropologist, vol. 13, no. 41, pp. 167-188.
- Gunnerson, James H., 1969, "A Human Skeleton from an Apache Baking Pit," Plains Anthropologist, vol. 14, no. 43.
- Jones, Bruce A., 1976, "Recent Archeological Investigations in Lake Scott State Park," Kansas Anthropological Association Newsletter, vol. 22, nos. 1 & 2, pp. 1-5.
- Martin, H. T., 1909, "Further Notes on the Pueblo Ruins of Scott County," Kansas University Science Bulletin, vol. 5, no. 2, pp. 11-22.
- Thomas, A. B., 1935, After Coronado, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.
- Wedel, Waldo, 1959, "An Introduction to Kansas Archeology," B.A.E. Bull, 174.
- Witty, Thomas A., 1971, "Archeology and the Early History of the Scott Lake State Park Area," Kansas Anthropological Association Newsletter, vol. 16, no. 5.
- Witty, Thomas, 1975, "Report of the 1975 Lake Scott Kansas Anthropological Association and Kansas Archeology Training School Activities," Kansas Anthropological Association Newsletter, vol. 21, nos. 1 & 2, pp. 1-9.
- Williston, Samuel Wendell, 1899, "Some Prehistoric Ruins in Scott County, Kansas," Kansas University Quar. Ser. B. Philol. & Hist., vol. 7, pp. 109-114.

[illegible]



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet El Cuartelejo NHL

Item number 10

Page 3

and defined by fifteen UTM coordinates on the accompanying 1976 USGS 7.5 minute Lake Scott, Kansas topographic quadrangle map (i.e., points A through O, on continuation sheet Item 10, page 2).

Physiographic context and administrative convenience facilitate establishment of the landmark district boundary. The terrace and soil contexts within which well defined sites exist permit projecting probable limits for surface exposed localities. With the exception of sites 15 and 20 (i.e., 14SC404 and 14SC402), most sites exist within soils of T<sub>0</sub> through T<sub>2</sub> terraces above present stream grades and lake level. Other localities in similar contexts are identified where earth disturbing activities expose upper solum horizons (e.g., roads, parking zones, camping areas). These artifact bearing units are traced laterally until (1) archeological surveys indicate no cultural material, or (2) the stratigraphy is terminated by another physiographic unit such as a talus slope, terrace margin, or cap rock escarpment. These limits are not projected beyond the current State Park boundary unless a pedestrian survey reports continuation of artifactual or other salient cultural material (e.g., site 8 (14SC2) and more northerly terrace system). In no case is the landmark district extended into a second political subdivision of the state based on probability projections (e.g., Logan County). Portions of the State Park not included within the boundary are reported free of significant cultural material (e.g., SW 1/4 of SW 1/4 of NW 1/4 of Section 13, T 16 S, R 33 W (6th PM)).

A practice of describing National Historic Landmark Boundaries by verbal relation to topographic contours on USGS quadrangles is of limited utility in regions demonstrating moderate to rapid geomorphological change. Mean relief changes for Ogallala escarpment, colluvial slopes, and terrace aggradation within Lake Scott State Park are calculated at 1.3 feet per year (cf., 1939 Lake McBride, Kansas 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle and 1976 Lake Scott, Kansas 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle). These changes are principle consequences of headward fluvial erosion (i.e., Ogallala escarpment) and reestablishment of stream grades by initiation and historic alteration of lake levels (i.e., terrace development). These geomorphic dynamics should initiate reevaluations of the boundary graphically illustrated herein every 5 years or until all cultural locality projections are sufficiently researched to resolve formal site status. The Landmark boundary should be periodically monitored for adverse encroachment by geomorphological processes, vis-a-vis, Section 8 of P.L. 91-383 as amended by P.L. 94-458 (90 STAT. 1939).

# EL CUARTELEJO National Historic Landmark

U.S.G.S. 7.5 min. LAKE SCOTT, KANSAS

Topographic Quadrangle, 1976

(formerly 7.5 min. Lake McBride, Kansas, 1939)

SCALE 1:24,000



UTM Zone 14

A. 333080E	4284925N	I. 332880E	4282940N
B. 333775E	4283775N	J. 331135E	4282975N
C. 334020E	4282595N	K. 330870E	4283320N
D. 334160E	4280400N	L. 330880E	4283770N
E. 334020E	4279745N	M. 331340E	4284100N
F. 333875E	4279450N	N. 331695E	4284160N
G. 332995E	4279730N	O. 332495E	4284930N
H. 331905E	4281465N		

Site Numbers

1. 14SC412	10. 14SC303	19. 14SC403
2. 14SC413	11. 14SC401	20. 14SC402
3. 14SC408	12. 14SC107	21. 14SC301 (102, 103)
4. 14SC302	13. 14SC307	22. 14SC305
5. 14SC411	14. 14SC410	23. 14SC409
6. 14SC5	15. 14SC404	24. 14SC414
7. 14SC407	16. 14SC304	25. 14SC104
8. 14SC2 (405)	17. 14SC106	26. 14SC105
9. 14SC406	18. 14SC1	

